

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of packaging a brittle food-stuff comprising the steps of forming a tube having a predetermined cross sectional shape and area, forming a first seal at a lower end of the tube, feeding a pre-determined amount of the food-stuff to be packaged into the tube, forming a second seal in the tube at a pre-determined distance above the first seal, repeating the steps of feeding the foodstuff and sealing along the tube to form a strip of sealed pouches of pre-determined dimensions and predetermined volume containing the foodstuff each pouch having at least one long side face which is as long as or longer than all other faces of the pouch in the direction of the strip, and inserting the strip of sealed pouches into a carton, wherein the bulk volume of said predetermined amount of foodstuff fed into each pouch is less than the predetermined volume of each sealed pouch, so that when each pouch is sealed, each pouch contains the desired quantity of foodstuff as well as a predetermined amount of air so that if a sealed pouch is placed on said long side face, a layer of air is formed above the foodstuff, wherein ~~the strip of filled pouches is folded into a space filling pattern in a first step, the folded pouches being subsequently inserted into the carton in the space filling pattern in a second step, the pattern being configured so that the walls of the carton hold the pouches in the space filling pattern~~ at least one pleat is formed on each side of the tube and at each end of each pouch so that each pouch adopts a substantially brick shaped configuration when sealed with the pre-determined amount of air and pre-determined amount of foodstuff therein.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strip of sealed pouches is arranged substantially upright or transverse in the carton.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strip of sealed pouches is arranged in a concertina configuration in the carton.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least two strips of sealed pouches are arranged in the carton.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the at least two strips of sealed pouches are arranged parallel to one another in the carton.

6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the at least two strips of sealed pouches are releasably attached to one another.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~7~~ 1, wherein the at least one pleat is formed in each pouch after the lower end of each pouch is sealed but before the goods are fed into the pouch.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pouches in the or each strip are substantially the same size.

10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each pouch is substantially cuboidal in shape.

11. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein each pouch is substantially cubic in shape.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sealing is by means of heat.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sealing is by means of an adhesive.

14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tube is formed of plastics material.

15. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tube is formed of waxed paper.

16. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein printed matter is applied to each pouch of the strip of pouches.

17. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein perforations are formed between each pouch of the strip of pouches to enable separation of the pouches from one another.

18. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the perforations are formed by means of a comb-type cutter.

19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the comb-type cutter has means for severing the pouches from one another.

20. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the pouches are severed from one another after a pre-determined number of pouches has been filled and sealed.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Original) Packaged brittle food-stuff produced by the method as claimed in claim 1.

23-26. (Cancelled.)

27. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strip of filled pouches is folded at points between the pouches.

28-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the food-stuff comprises breakfast cereal.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of determining the pre-determined volume of food-stuff, determining the predetermined volume of the sealed pouches, so that the predetermined volume of the sealed pouches is greater than the predetermined volume of food-stuff and so that, when the pouch is placed on its side, a layer of air is formed above the food-stuff, determining the predetermined shape and the predetermined distance between the first and second seal from said predetermined volume.

32. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein said carton has an opening face and a bottom face opposite said opening face, and an axis extending from said bottom face to said opening face, the strip of sealed pouches is being arranged substantially transverse to said axis in the carton and arranged in a concertina configuration.

33. (New) A method of packaging a brittle food-stuff comprising the steps of forming a tube having a predetermined cross sectional shape and area, forming a first seal at a lower end of the tube, feeding a pre-determined amount of the food-stuff to be packaged into the tube, forming a second seal in the tube at a pre-determined distance above the first seal, repeating the steps of feeding the foodstuff and sealing along the tube to form a strip of

sealed pouches of pre-determined dimensions and predetermined volume containing the foodstuff each pouch having at least one long side face which is as long as or longer than all other faces of the pouch in the direction of the strip, and inserting the strip of sealed pouches into a carton, wherein the bulk volume of said predetermined amount of foodstuff fed into each pouch is less than the predetermined volume of each sealed pouch, so that when each pouch is sealed, each pouch contains the desired quantity of foodstuff as well as a predetermined amount of air so that if a sealed pouch is placed on said long side face, a layer of air is formed above the foodstuff, wherein the strip of filled pouches is folded into a space efficient pattern the strip of filled and sealed pouches being then inserted into the carton.